(iii) Intensification of research efforts to increase the production of oilseeds.

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vii) Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of Vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis is mandatory at present. Higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of Vanaspati upto 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their production.

In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate imports of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

Pricing of Sugar

3008. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new formula has not been announced so far for pricing of sugar, country-wise;

(b) if so, whether Government had asked the CACP to come up with formula by July end;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in announcing the sugar cane policy formula; and

(d) by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend a new sugarcane pricing policy. CACP had accepted the responsibility. The changes, if any, in the sugarcane pricing policy in the future would depend the recommendations of the CACP. No time limit has been put in this regard.

Consumer redressal machinery

3009. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a programme for augmenting infrastructure and to stengthen consumer redressal machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the plan formulated in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose during 2002-03; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Machinery in the States and UTs and its effective functioning rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, to supplement the efforts of the States and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Machinery, Central Government have provided one time financial assistance of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States and UTs under the Central Sector One-Time-Grant Scheme during the year 1995—99. The said scheme has not been extended further. No such fund has been earmarked in this regard duirng the year 2002-03.

Sale of rice meant for export

3010. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: